

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Serial No. 09/582,094
Attorney Docket No. 000725

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 15, 18, 19 and 21 are pending in the present application of which claims 1 – 10, 12 and 19 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 12, 18 and 21 have been amended and claim 14 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated June 14, 2004.

Allowable Claim Subject Matter:

Claims 11, 13 and 15:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in item 8 of the Office Action that claims 11, 13 and 15 have been allowed.

Claim 18:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in item 9 of the Office Action that claim 18/(11, 13, 14, 15) would be allowable, if amended, to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph. As discussed below, claim 18 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph. Accordingly, claim 18 is now believed to be allowable.

Claim 12:

In addition, Applicants gratefully appreciate the Examiner providing suggestive amendments to claim 12 such that claim 12 will be rejoined and allowed, as set forth in item 10 of the Action, As such, claim 12 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 12 should be rejoined and found to be allowable.

Claim Objections:

Claim 21 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.175(c), as being improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

More specifically, the Examiner asserts that “[c]laim 21 recites that the sheet-like mirror has a shape and dimension that correspondences to a size of a region of observation of a target object. Such a recitation fails to further limit the subject matter related to the shape of the minor recited in its base claims 11 and 13 – 15 which each claims recited that the sheet-like mirror has a rectangular shape.”¹

¹ Please see, lines 3 – 7, page 3 of the Action.

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However, claim 21 has been amended to further limit only the dimension of the sheet-like mirror, since as the Examiner points out the shape (rectangular) of the mirror is already defined in independent claims 11 and 13 – 15. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §112 Second Paragraph Rejection:

Claims 14 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 has been cancelled and claim 18 has been amended to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

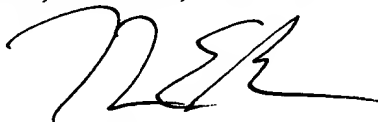
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If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TEB', is written over the printed name of Thomas E. Brown.

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